## *MEDIA RELEASE* Tuesday, February 10, 2026

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

# City seeks artists for 2026 *Brightening Barriers* public art program

(Barrie, ON) – The City and the Barrie Public Art Committee are inviting proposals from artists for public art installations that will serve as a downtown patio enhancement, as part of the 2026 *Brightening Barriers* program. With patio fencing serving as a canvas, *Brightening Barriers* offers an opportunity to turn “barriers" into a collective artistic experience. 2026 marks the sixth year of the *Brightening Barriers* program.

The selected works will be on display for the 2026 summer season, bringing a free and accessible cultural experience to the community. Each installation will be displayed on a patio fence generously provided by a local business.

The City will commission up to six new works of art for this year’s program. The City also offers a mentorship program to support emerging artists (artists who are new to public art). Emerging and professional artists of all backgrounds, experiences, and approaches are encouraged to apply.

Artists are invited to respond to the theme *Rhythms of the City*. This theme explores the patterns, movement, and energy that shape the city of Barrie. Collectively, the selected works will create a cohesive visual rhythm across downtown Barrie.

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 13, 2026. Prospective artists interested in the *Brightening Barriers* program are invited to attend a virtual information session on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 6 to 7 p.m., to learn more about the program and ask questions.

For program details, eligibility requirements, application instructions, and to register for the virtual information session, visit barrie.ca/BrighteningBarriers.

- 30 –

***For more information, please contact:***
Emily O’Brien
Communications Advisor
emily.obrien@barrie.ca
705-627-0796